

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 217

Introduced by Assembly Member Beall

February 3, 2009

An act to add Article 5.4 (commencing with Section 14180) to Chapter 7 of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 217, as introduced, Beall. Medi-Cal: alcohol and drug screening and brief intervention services.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care services.

This bill would establish the Medi-Cal Alcohol and Drug Screening and Brief Intervention Services Program, which would be administered by the department, in consultation with the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, for the purpose of increasing the state's ability to make available alcohol and drug screening and brief intervention services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries. The bill would require a public entity that participates in the program to provide specified evidence and data to the department relating to the certified expenditures, as provided, and would require the department to promptly seek any necessary federal approvals for the implementation of the program.

The bill would provide that participation in the program would be voluntary for a Medi-Cal beneficiary. The bill would also require the fact of whether a beneficiary participates in the program, and the results of any screening done under the program, to be maintained in the beneficiary's confidential medical records, as provided.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) Screening and brief intervention for alcohol and other drug
4 abuse, in emergency rooms, primary care centers, clinics, and other
5 settings, have been demonstrated to be valuable and effective tools
6 in the prevention, interruption, and treatment of alcohol and other
7 drug abuse.

8 (b) Alcohol and drug screening and brief intervention services
9 should be readily available to patients in emergency rooms, primary
10 care centers, clinics, and other appropriate settings, without regard
11 to the manner of payment for emergency services.

12 (c) Potential incentives and disincentives to the delivery of
13 alcohol and drug screening and brief intervention services should
14 be aligned to reduce the risk of discrimination to patients based
15 on ability to pay and to reduce the risk of distraction of health care
16 providers by these determinations.

17 (d) The use of available federal and other funds to support the
18 delivery of alcohol and drug screening and brief intervention
19 services should be maximized.

20 SEC. 2. Article 5.4 (commencing with Section 14180) is added
21 to Chapter 7 of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions
22 Code, to read:

23
24 Article 5.4. Medi-Cal Alcohol and Drug Screening and Brief
25 Intervention Services Program
26

27 14180. This article shall be known and may be cited as the
28 Medi-Cal Alcohol and Drug Screening and Brief Intervention
29 Services Program.

30 14180.1. For purposes of this article, the following definitions
31 shall apply:

32 (a) "Department" means the State Department of Health Care
33 Services.

34 (b) "Public entity" means a county, or other local governmental
35 entity designated by the department, that elects to provide or

1 contract for alcohol and drug screening and brief intervention
2 services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries pursuant to this article.

3 14180.2. (a) The Medi-Cal Alcohol and Drug Screening and
4 Brief Intervention Services Program is hereby established.

5 (b) The department, in consultation with the State Department
6 of Alcohol and Drug Programs, shall administer the program for
7 the purpose of increasing the state's ability to make available
8 alcohol and drug screening and brief intervention services for
9 Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

10 14180.3. (a) The department shall administer this article in
11 accordance with the certified public expenditure requirements
12 described in Section 433.51 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal
13 Regulations, or any successor thereto, in certifying that the claimed
14 expenditures for alcohol and drug screening and brief intervention
15 services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries are eligible for federal financial
16 participation. The department shall do all of the following in
17 accordance with administering this provision:

18 (1) Provide evidence supporting the certification, as specified
19 by the department.

20 (2) Submit data, as specified by the department, to determine
21 the appropriate amounts to claim as expenditures qualifying for
22 federal financial participation.

23 (3) Keep, maintain, and have readily retrievable, any records
24 specified by the department to fully disclose reimbursement
25 amounts to which the eligible public entity is entitled, and any
26 other records required by the federal Centers for Medicare and
27 Medicaid Services.

28 (b) The nonfederal share of expenditures submitted to the federal
29 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for purposes of
30 claiming federal financial participation shall be comprised of only
31 those funds that are paid by a public entity, as defined in
32 subdivision (b) of Section 14180.1, and certified in accordance
33 with subdivision (a).

34 (c) In administering this article, the department shall do all of
35 the following:

36 (1) Promptly seek any necessary federal approvals for the
37 implementation of this article.

38 (2) Submit claims for federal financial participation for the
39 expenditures for the services described in subdivision (a) that are
40 allowable expenditures under federal law.

1 (3) Submit, on an annual basis, any necessary materials to the
2 federal government to provide assurances that claims for federal
3 financial participation will include only those expenditures that
4 are allowable under federal law.

5 (d) Upon receipt of the federal reimbursement for the claim, the
6 department shall provide the reimbursement to the public entity
7 for which the claim was submitted.

8 (e) The department may implement, interpret, and make specific
9 this article by means of all county letters, provider bulletins, and
10 similar instructions.

11 (f) Participation in the screening and intervention program
12 established pursuant to this article shall be voluntary for a Medi-Cal
13 beneficiary. Participation in the program, and results of the
14 screening, shall be maintained in the beneficiary's confidential
15 medical records, and subject to all confidentiality requirements
16 applicable to medical records.

17 14180.4. This article shall be implemented only if, and to the
18 extent that, federal funds are available for this purpose.